



**All Island
Farm Safety Conference**
The Hillgrove Hotel, Old Armagh Road, Monaghan
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Swedish Farm Safety Practice and E.U. Influences

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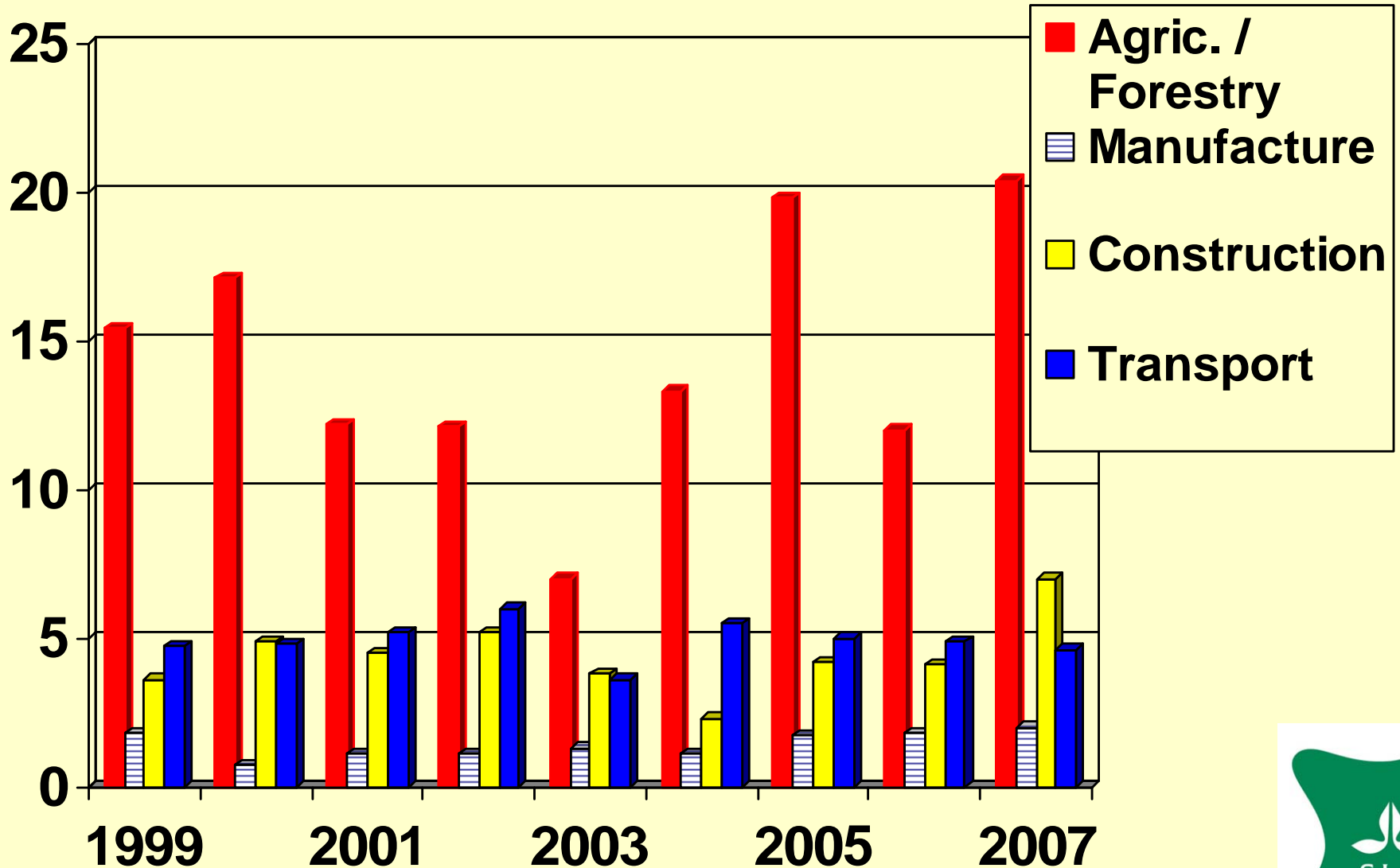
The farm – the best place to grow up - *if you survive!*



Number of fatal injuries at work in Swedish agriculture and forestry, 1998-2008

Year	Agriculture	Forestry	Total
1998	12	1	13
1999	13	3	16
2000	8	6	14
2001	7	3	10
2002	4	7	11
2003	2	3	5
2004	10	3	13
2005	2	16	18
2006	9	4	13
2007	8	11	19
2008	3	4	7

Number of fatal work related injuries per 100 000 employed in Sweden 1999-2007



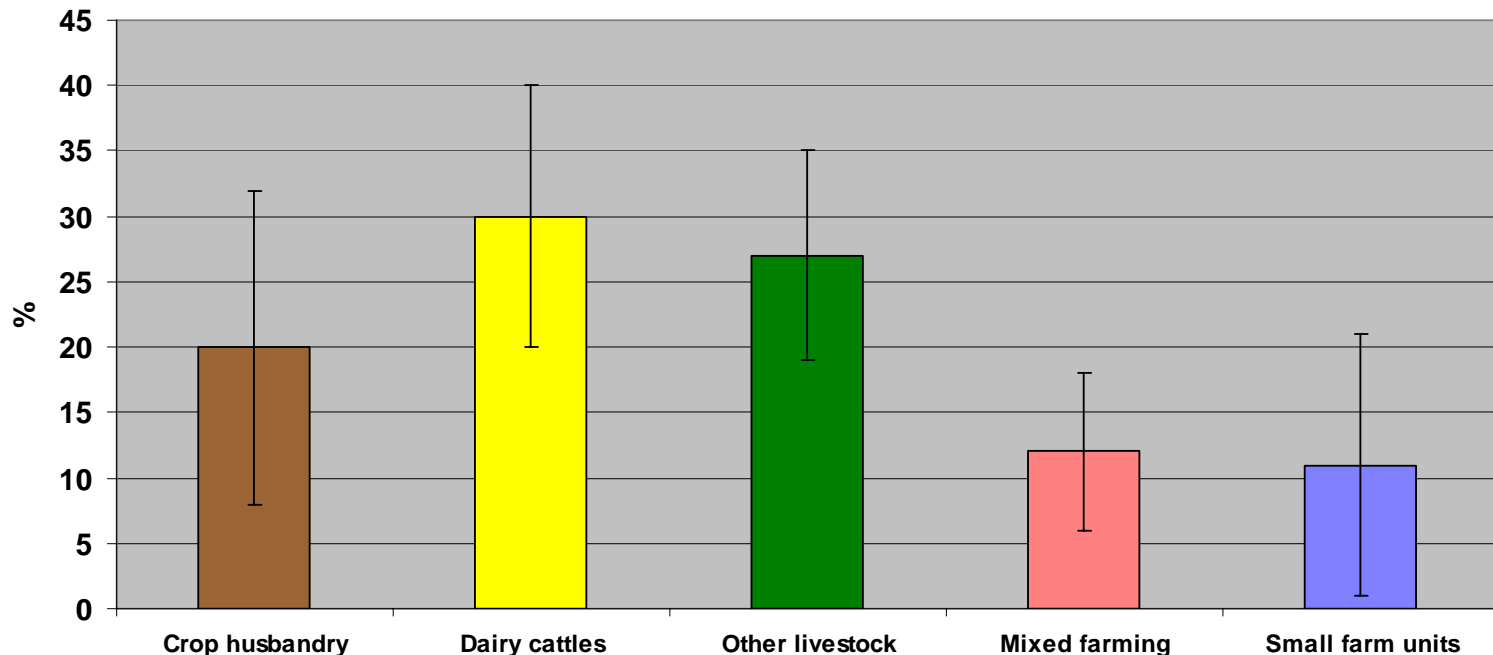
Injuries

Number of injuries 2004 : (Pinzke & Lundqvist, 2005)

- **400 in official statistics
(agriculture, hunting, forestry,
fishing) – no problem!**
- **5000 real injuries !**

Injuries

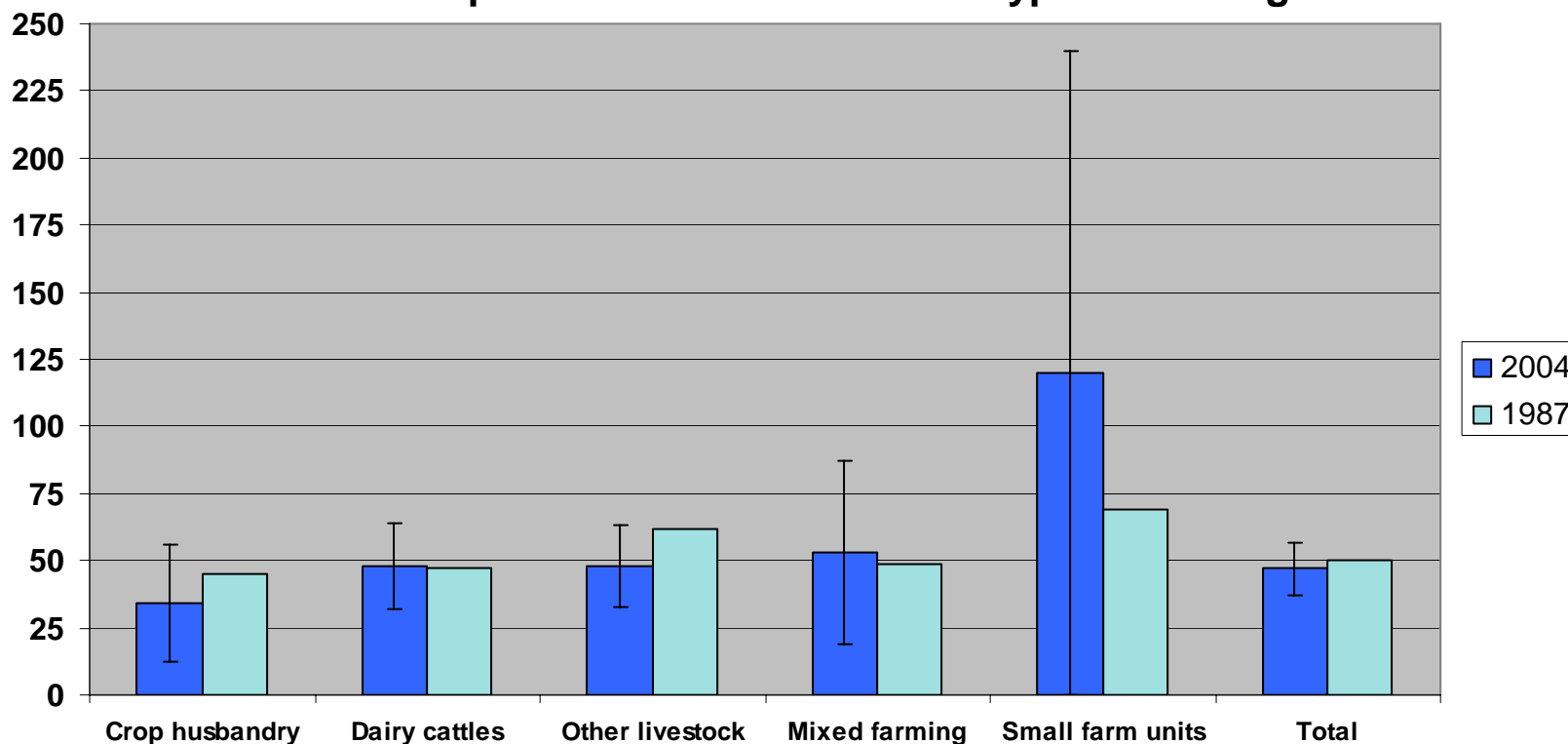
Occupational accidents in Swedish farming and forestry in 2004
Accidents by type of farming



- More than 70% of the accidents occurred on farms with animal production
- 15% of all farms with dairy cattle had at least one accident

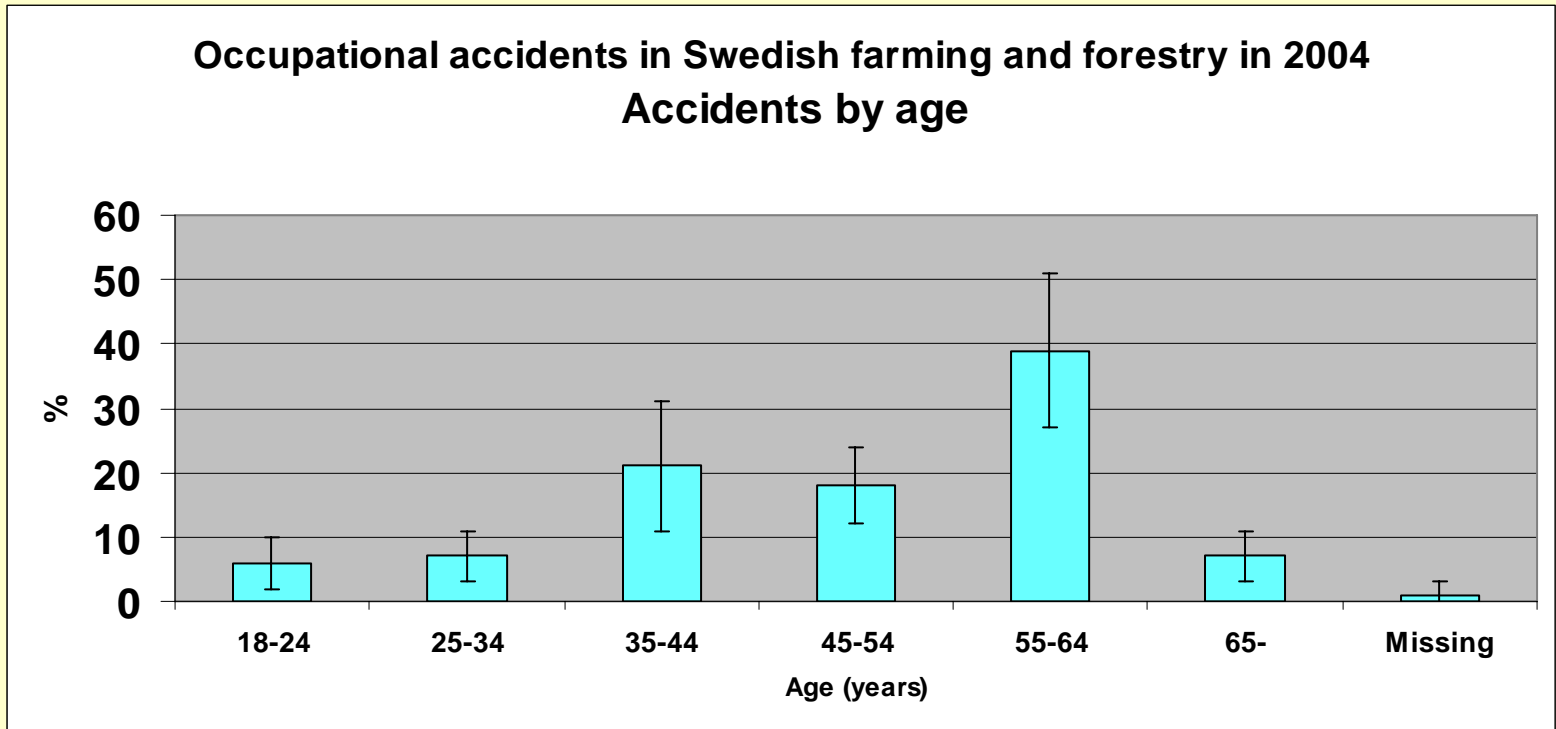
Results

Occupational accidents in Swedish farming and forestry in 2004, 1987
Accidents per million man-hours and type of farming



- The injury frequency is highest for the small farm units (< 400 work hours/year)

Results



- **Almost half of the injured were 55 years or older**
- **Worked 28 years in the branch**
- **72% had worked 10 years and more**

Results

- **63% sought medical service**
 - 61% at hospital
 - 21% at health centre
 - 9% called for ambulance
- **14 days absence from work (total, in average)**
 - 32 days absence >1 day
- **16% sick listed**
- **9 days sick listed (total, in average)**
 - 56 days sick listed >1 day
- **11% reported as a work injury**

Conclusion

- **High frequency of accidents and injuries in agriculture**
- **The level of un-reported injuries is very high!**
- **Powerful measures is needed!**

Powerful measures is needed!

- **What is done & what is needed
– in Sweden?**



Legislation (Enforcement)

- **The Swedish Work Environment Authority** is the administrative authority for questions relating to the working environment
- **Renewal, amendment and amalgamation of Provisions** New knowledge concerning risks and changes in working life, as well as new EU Directives, make the development of Provisions an ongoing task.

Legislation (Enforcement)

- Examples of provisions with a focus on agriculture: "Use of chainsaws and brush saws", "Pesticides"
- A new provision is on it's way: "Working with animals"

Engineering

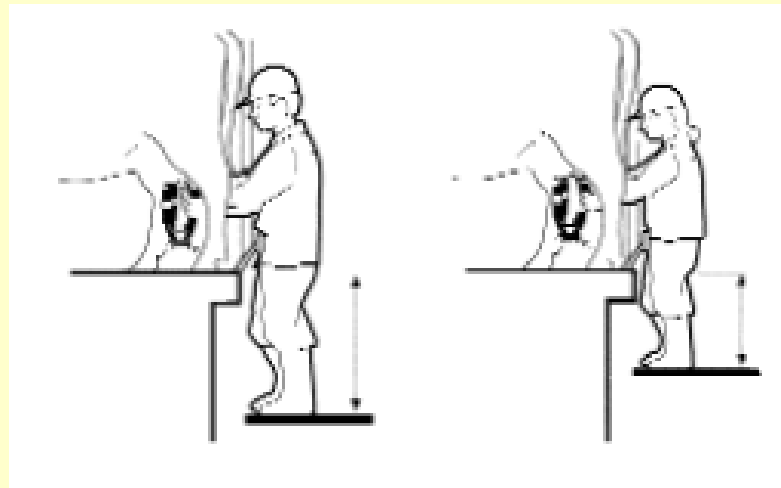
Machine-safety is a question of liability

- The manufacturer is liable for delivered products being CE-marked and also the products fulfilling all safety requirements laid down in EC-directives and standards. Machines and production lines that are used in the production process must also fulfil high safety requirements.

Engineering

Working with the industry is essential in order to speed up the process:

An example: adjustable working height in parlours



Education on farm safety & health

- **The agricultural colleges (16-19 years of age)**
- **The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences**
- **Training and advice for farmers and farm workers**

Education on farm safety & health

Examples from SLU (Ag university) courses

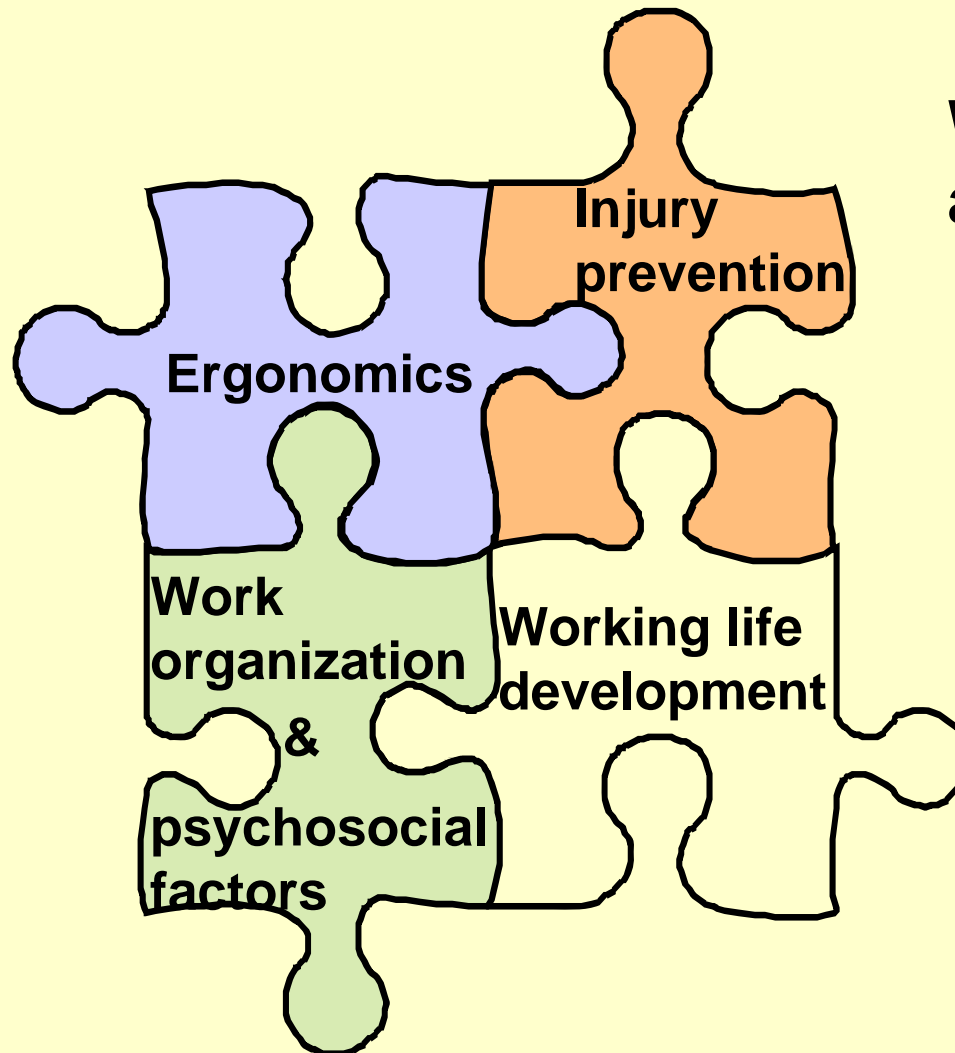
- **Safety & health in agriculture (web based)**
- **Working with animals (safety, ergonomics & leadership)**
- **Work psychology & leadership**
- **Leadership & organisation**
- **Health & safety along the food chain**

Research on farm safety & health

Funding resources in Sweden

- **The Swedish Farmers' Foundation for Agricultural Research** – is the Swedish agricultural industry's organization for funding research and development. The purpose of the foundation is to strengthen the competitive ability of Swedish agriculture
- **The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas)**
- **The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry**
- **Insurance companies, EU !**

Research on farm safety & health



**Work Science
at SLU Alnarp**

Research on farm safety & health

Examples from SLU (Ag university)

- Safe handling of large farm animals
- ATV use & handling
- Milking ergonomics
- Stress & Psychosocial aspects of farming
- Injuries among farm children & teenagers
- Slow-moving vehicles in the traffic
- Working with horses (ergonomics & safety aspects)

Collaboration & partners

The Swedish Committee on Health and Safety in Agriculture (LAMK)

- The Farm Workers Union (Kommunal)
- The Farmer Employers Organisation (SLA)
- The Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF)
- The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)
- The Swedish Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Engineering (JTI)
- The Swedish Trade Association for Suppliers of Mobile Machines (ML)

Media – is important!

A recent headline from *Land Lantbruk*

The number of injuries will be reduced by half

The the Swedish Board of Agriculture wants to spend 40 million SEK per year until 2013 in order to reduce the number of injuries in agriculture and forestry.. Jordbruksverket vill satsa 40 miljoner kronor varje år till 2013 för att halvera antalet döds- och olycksfall inom jord och skog.

These measures did not solve all the problems!

- ***We need some new initiatives in order to involve the farmers – even more!***

The Kuopio declaration against fatal injuries in agriculture

During the Nordic Meeting on Agricultural Occupational Health in Kuopio, Finland (NMAOH 2006), the participants declared a number of suggested actions directed towards the authorities and stakeholders to join in the effort and work towards achieving the vision of zero fatal injuries in agriculture

The Kuopio declaration against fatal injuries in agriculture

- By the year 2012 – there should be no fatal injuries in Nordic agriculture
- Develop **national action plans** against injuries in agriculture involving all relevant stakeholders in the agriculture sector
 - Establish and enhance **national resource/information and coordination centres** for agricultural health and safety

The Kuopio declaration against fatal injuries in agriculture

- Comprehensive **occupational health services** should be available to everyone working in the agricultural sector
- Detailed and **reliable statistics** on injuries in agriculture should be presented at a yearly basis
- **Information and education** about health and safety needs to be further developed and implemented for farmers and others working in agriculture
- **Education** about health, safety & leadership should be implemented in the whole education system from pre-school to university

A Swedish Commission

As a consequence of:

- the Kuopio declaration
- the present study
- the media attention
-and the alarming situation of injuries in agriculture, the Swedish Government initiated a Commission to develop an action program against injuries on farms

A Swedish Commission

- The results from the Commission included calculations on the economical consequences of injuries in agriculture for the whole Swedish society based on the results presented in this paper.
- According to these calculations the economical consequences reaches a yearly level of 2– 3 billion SEK (300 – 400 million US \$).
- This is also compared with similar calculations in Norway: 1, 45 billion NKR per year (230 million US \$)

Report to the Swedish Government



- **Main Recommendations:**
- Farm safety instructors
- A National Competence & Resource Centre
- Voluntary "driver license" for chain-saw users

Report to the Swedish Government

Special attention to:

- Child injury prevention
- Injury prevention among the older population



Report to the Swedish Government

Further suggestions:

- Increase the demands on the dealers of agricultural tractors and machinery
- Improved statistics
- Improved actions for seasonal workers
- Improved education
- Further research

Response from the Swedish Government

- *Mission to Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), The Swedish Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Engineering (JTI) and The Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF):*
- Develop a system of farm advisors / educators
- Provide training for these persons during 2008-09
- Plan for a first action period (2009-2013), related to the EU Rural Development Programme

The current process

- **A number of process meetings with farmers & farm advisors in order to find out:**
 1. The right message
 2. The right concept / organisation
 3. The right persons to "meet" with the farmers

The current process

- Discussing two concepts:
 1. **The farmer driven approach** "the safe farmer attitude" with trained farmers as the driving force (inspired by "FarmSafe NZ")
 - a) Awareness (workshop)
 - b) Farmsafe Plans for your own farm (workshop)
 - c) Skills (Training - increasing the practical skills)
 2. **Farm advisors** - trained "experts" visiting the farms in order to give on site safety advice

What I would like to discuss further!

- An EU-based network / organisation for safety and health in agriculture
- An annual or bi-annual EU-based meeting on safety and health in agriculture
- An EU-project with a focus on strategies for injury prevention in agriculture
- Could we link EU-support & working conditions on farms?!
- *We need to work together & sharing experiences in order to create a safe & healthy industry – to be proud of!*



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**Declare an Irish declaration against fatal
injuries in agriculture!?**

Thank you for your attention!

